General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 February 2005

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/59/648)*]

59/270. Reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

Recalling also its resolutions 56/246 of 24 December 2001 and 58/101 B of 9 December 2003,

Having considered the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003[1] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the structure and operations of United Nations information centres,[2]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

2. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[1]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of Internal Oversight Services continues to provide internal oversight of the entire claims process of the United Nations Compensation Commission and to report regularly thereon in the context of the annual reports of the Office;

4. *Recalls* regulation 1.2 of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to provide information to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session in the context of its consideration of matters related to procurement reform on actions taken to prevent recurrence of incidents of possible conflict of interest and inappropriate procurement practices;

5. *Notes* the description of the mission of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as outlined in its annual report, and in this regard stresses that the mission

[1] See A/58/364.

[2] See A/57/747 and Corr.1.

of the Office should be in full conformity with its mandate, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/218 B;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees develops and utilizes comprehensive policy guidelines for the selection and management of consultants to ensure transparency and objectivity in their engagement, monitoring and evaluation as well as to make greater efforts to ensure a geographical balance in the use of qualified consultants, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session;

7. *Endorses* the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding improvement of internal controls in management, accounting and reporting of assets of all United Nations field missions to establish reliable records, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to codify appropriate procedures for the purchase and utilization of vehicles and other equipment by United Nations field missions to ensure compliance by all missions with the procedures and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixtieth session;

9. *Notes with concern* the contents of paragraph 97 of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the management and control of United Nations laissez-passer, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the development of appropriate Organization-wide rules, policies and procedures for managing laissez-passer and to report thereon to the General Assembly, as appropriate;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 38 of General Assembly resolution 58/101 B, and takes note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the structure and operations of United Nations information centres.[2]

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United Nations A/RES/59/271

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/59/648)*]

59/271. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

Having considered the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004,[1]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

2. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[1]

3. *Notes* the description of the mission of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as outlined in its annual report, and in this regard stresses that the mission of the Office should be in full conformity with its mandate, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/218 B;

4. *Notes also* the information provided by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the economies and savings generated by its recommendations, and requests the Office to explain its guidelines for measuring the impact of such economies and savings and to report to the General Assembly thereon in its next annual report;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with regard to paragraph 53 of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to ensure strict conformity with the highest standards of quality when recruiting staff to fill language posts, in accordance with legislative mandates;

6. *Notes with concern* the findings of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on investigations, as reflected in paragraphs 42 to 47 of its annual report, as well as the fact that some of them reflect serious managerial problems and lack of control;

[1] See A/59/359.

7. *Stresses*, in this regard, the crucial importance of establishing an effective and efficient system of accountability throughout the Secretariat in order to prevent such problems and to make programme managers accountable;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its audit of the regional commissions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the actions taken by the legislative bodies of the regional commissions with regard to the recommendations of the report;

9. *Takes note also* of paragraph 63 of the annual report, relating to the audit of the non-governmental organization accreditation process;

10. *Reiterates*, in the context of paragraphs 8 and 9 above, paragraph 8 of its resolution 54/244, in which it emphasized that the appr al, change and discontinuation of legislative mandates are the exclusive prerogatives of intergovernmental legislative bodies;

11. *Concurs* with the observation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in paragraph 55 of its annual report, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office continues to provide internal oversight of the entire claims process of the United Nations Compensation Commission and to report regularly thereon in the context of the annual reports of the Office.

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[2] See A/58/785.

United Nations A/RES/59/272

General Assembly

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Agenda item 119

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/59/649)*]

59/272. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

1. *Decides* to maintain the reporting procedures for the Office of Internal Oversight Services in full compliance with its resolutions 48/218 B and 54/244, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to ensure that:

(*a*) Annual reports submitted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the General Assembly contain the titles and brief summaries of all reports of the Office issued during the year;

(*b*) Semi-annual reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contain the titles and brief summaries of all other reports of the Office issued in the reporting period;

(*c*) Original versions of the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services not submitted to the General Assembly are, upon request, made available to any Member State;

2. *Also decides* that when access to a report would be inappropriate for reasons of confidentiality or the risk of violating the due process rights of individuals involved in Office of Internal Oversight Services investigations, the report may be modified, or withheld in extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, who will provide reasons for this to the requesting party;

3. *Further decides* that reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services shall be submitted directly to the General Assembly as submitted by the Office and that the comments of the Secretary-General may be submitted in a separate report;

4. *Affirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on the reports submitted to it;

5. *Notes* that no mechanism has been established for the follow-up to Office of Internal Oversight Services recommendations, including those considered by the General Assembly;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of establishing real, effective and efficient mechanisms for responsibility and accountability;

7. *Regrets* that despite previous information provided by the Secretary-General on the establishment of accountability mechanisms, including the accountability panel, such mechanisms are not in place, thereby affecting the efficient and effective functioning of the Organization;

8. *Takes note* of paragraph 129 (*b*) of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[1] and concurs with the view that a high-level follow-up mechanism under the authority of the Secretary-General should be established in the Organization to effectively feed findings and recommendations of the Office, as well as relevant findings of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Board of Auditors, into the executive management processes;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit annually to the General Assembly a report under the agenda item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" addressing the measures implemented with the aim of strengthening accountability in the Secretariat and the results achieved;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish the aforementioned follow-up mechanism as soon as possible and to report to the General Assembly on the results achieved in the context of the report referred to in paragraph 9 above, with specific reference to:

(*a*) The composition of such a mechanism, including the seniority of the chair and members;

(*b*) Terms of reference of the mechanism and frequency of its meetings;

(*c*) The inclusion in the mechanism of one or more participants with relevant expertise from United Nations-system oversight bodies;

(*d*) Reporting procedures;

11. *Reaffirms* the role of the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit as external oversight bodies, and, in this regard, affirms that any external review, audit, inspection, monitoring, evaluation or investigation of the Office can be undertaken only by such bodies or those mandated to do so by the General Assembly;

12. *Also reaffirms* the importance of effective coordination, in the implementation of their respective mandates, between the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in order to maximize the use of resources and share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned;

13. *Stresses* the vital importance of the evaluation function of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and requests the Secretary-General to better reflect the objectives, expected accomplishments and performance indicators related to this function in future biennial programmes and budgetary submissions of the Office;

14. *Reaffirms* its oversight role as well as the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

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[1] See A/59/359.

15. *Notes* paragraph 129 (*a*) of the annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, taking into account the views of external oversight bodies, on how to guarantee the full operational independence of the Office within the context of its resolution 48/218 B;

16. *Decides* to evaluate and review at its sixty-fourth session the functions and reporting procedures of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and any other matter which it deems appropriate, and to that end to include in the provisional agenda of that session an item entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272".

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23 December 2004